me who hold you in the esteem due to men of your talent, and in a friendship which my heart, so old now and knowing mankind but too well, feels for no one else.

On my arrival in France I found the Republic lost; the Vendee was at the gates of Paris; the fleet instead of being at Toulon was at Brest, and dismantled; Brest was even threatened by the English. I have had to destroy the Vendee, find money, refit the fleet. But don't let us talk of those things; come and join me as quickly as you can.

(To the Consuls of the Republic.) I wish you to have printed in the *Journal Officiel* that Generals Desaix and Davout have arrived at Toulon, with a few words added to the effect that these generals maintained, after my departure, the reputation they had won in the campaigns of Holland and the Rhine.

15th. (To the Consuls.) The advance guard commanded by General Lannes is at this moment crossing the St. Bernard, Hold back the news from the army for a few days; merely say that it is in full march.

10th. (To Josephine.) I am just starting for St. Maurice, where I shall sleep. I have had no letters from you; that *s not nice; I write to you by every courier, A thousand tender things, my good little Josephine, for you and for yours.